

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The U.S. Department of Energy, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
and the State of Utah invite

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR CLEANUP OF THE MONTICELLO (UTAH) SUPERFUND SITE: MONTICELLO MILLSITE REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT (MRAP) at MONTICELLO, UTAH

Public Comment Period: October 27, 1989 through November 25, 1989

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VIII, and the State of Utah will hold a Public Meeting to discuss the draft final Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and the Proposed Plan for the Monticello millsite. The meeting will be held on November 16, 1989 at 7:00 P.M. in the San Juan County Courthouse, Commissioner's Hearing Room, 117 North Main Street, Monticello, Utah. The Department of Energy will present an overview of the alternatives evaluated for each phase of the cleanup.

The Monticello Superfund Site has been divided into three manageable components called "Operable Units". The proposed scope and role of remedial action, by Operable unit is:

**Operable Unit I - Tailings - Remedial action** associated with Operable Unit I would prevent the tailings from future contamination of air, surface soil, and groundwater.

**Operable Unit II - Peripheral Properties** Tailings would be removed from peripheral properties and placed on the existing tailings pile for eventual disposal with the millsite tailings.

**Operable Unit III - Groundwater - Remediation** is intended to eliminate existing contamination once the source (tailings) are removed.

DOE (the lead agency), EPA and the State of Utah (the support agencies) evaluated the following options for addressing the mill tailings cleanup activities at the Monticello Superfund site:

For Operable Unit I, Tailings, the alternatives evaluated include:

- **Alternative 1 - On-site stabilization south of present site.** Tailings would be moved out of contact with groundwater to a site south of the existing tailings area.

- **Alternative 2 - Removal to a licensed repository.** Tailings and contaminated material from the Monticello site would be moved to an existing disposal site licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Owners of the currently operating White Mesa Mill, south of Blanding, Utah, have expressed interest in providing a disposal site for the Monticello tailings.

- **Alternative 3 - No action.** This alternative is evaluated at every site to establish a basis for comparison. Under this alternative, DOE would take no further action at the site to stabilize tailings. However, continued environmental monitoring would be an annual Operation/Maintenance activity.

Except for the "no action" alternative, the

alternatives being considered for the tailings stabilization would be essentially identical except for location. Common elements would include: removal of tailings from the millsite; construction or use of a repository that is not in contact with groundwater; haul and placement of the tailings in compacted lifts within the repository; cover capping with additional soil to protect the repository from frost penetration and water percolation; and a minimum 1,000 year life for the entire repository. Each alternative also includes long-term groundwater monitoring in compliance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 192.

Based upon available information, the preferred option is Alternative 1 - *On-Site Stabilization South of Present Site*.

For Operable Unit II, Peripheral Properties, the alternatives evaluated include:

- **Alternative 1 - Conventional Construction** using large earthmoving equipment to clean the land and remove the contaminated soil.

- **Alternative 2 - Environmentally-Sensitive Construction** using a combination of hand excavation and high suction vacuum equipment in areas with mature dense vegetation or important wildlife habitats.

- **Alternative 3 - Supplemental Standards** application in areas where remedial action would cause undue environmental damage or the costs of remedial action would be unreasonably high in comparison to the derived environmental and health benefits.

- **Alternative 4 - No Action.** This alternative is reviewed to demonstrate what baseline conditions would be without any remedial action.

Based upon available information, the proposed action would consist of a combination of supplemental standards application, removal by environmentally-sensitive construction and removal by convention construction techniques. The method to be used for Operable Unit II will depend on the degree of contamination and the environmental consequences associated with specific land types.

For Operable Unit III - Groundwater, the alternatives evaluated include:

- **Alternative 1 - Active Groundwater collection, treatment and discharge.** Groundwater would be collected by interceptor drains and pumped to a central location for treatment in three stages: pretreatment for removal of turbidity and suspended solids; reverse osmosis to filter inorganics like uranium and radium salts and organics; and post-treatment discharge to a lined evaporation pond. The sludge would be allowed to dry and would require removal to a licensed

disposal site.

- **Alternative 2 - Active Groundwater collection and evaporation.** Collected groundwater would be pumped to a lined treatment pond for evaporation. Sludge produced would require drying and final disposal at a licensed facility.

- **Alternative 3 - Passive Restoration with Institutional controls.** Implemented after an Operable Unit I removes the tailings source, groundwater would be cleaned by the natural flushing of the alluvial aquifer. Institutional controls would effectively protect public health and satisfy beneficial uses of groundwater.

- **Alternative 4 - No Action.** This alternative is considered as a baseline within which to compare the other alternatives.

Based upon available information, the proposed action is to implement passive restoration with institutional controls after an Operable Unit I alternative removes the source of groundwater contamination, the tailings. The shallow alluvial aquifer would improve to background quality within 60 years, which is within compliance of the proposed Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action groundwater regulations of 100 years.

Although these are the preferred alternatives at the present time, DOE, EPA and the State of Utah welcome the public's comments on all alternatives identified above. DOE, EPA and the State of Utah will choose the final remedies after the public comment period ends and may select any of the options after taking those comments into account.

The Proposed Plan has been mailed to all known interested parties. Also, complete documentation of the analysis is presented in the draft final Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report and in the Proposed Plan, which are available with the rest of the administrative record file at the San Juan County Public Library, 80 North Main Street, Monticello, Utah.

The public may comment in person at the public meeting and/or may submit written comments from October 27 through November 25, 1989 to Peter Mygatt at the DOE address below. For further information, contact:

Peter Mygatt  
Public Relations Specialist  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Grand Junction Projects Office  
P.O. Box 2567  
Grand Junction, CO 81502  
(303) 248-6015

Collect phone calls will be accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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method of operation should continue or whether an in-house versus contract comparison should be performed to determine the most cost effective method of operation.

Patricia Means,  
OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,  
Department of Defense.

April 29, 1988.

[FR Doc. 88-9938 Filed 5-1-88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-01-M

## Department of the Army

### Army Science Board; Closed Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

Name of the Committee: Army Science Board. (ASB).

Dates of Meeting: Tuesday & Wednesday, 20-21 May 1988.

Times of Meeting: 0900-1630.

Places: US Army Concepts Analysis Agency, Bethesda, MD.

Agenda: The Army Science Board Ad Hoc Subgroup on Helicopter Lift Capabilities in Europe will meet to review Army models and processes for determination of requirements and capabilities of helicopters. This meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with section 552(b) of Title 5, U.S.C., specifically subparagraph (1) thereof, and 5, U.S.C., Appendix 1, subsection 10(d). The classified and nonclassified matters to be discussed are so inextricably intertwined so as to preclude opening any portion of the meeting. The ASB Administrative Officer, Sally Warner, may be contacted for further information at (202) 695-3039 or 695-7046.

Sally A. Warner,

Administrative Officer, Army Science Board.

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### Army Science Board; Closed Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

Name of the Committee: Army Science Board (ASB).

Dates of Meeting: Tuesday & Wednesday, 20-21 May 1988.

Times of Meeting: 0700-1700 (20 May 88); 0700-1500 (21 May 88).

Place: Pentagon, Washington, DC.

Agenda: The Science Board 1988 Summer Study Panel on C<sup>1</sup> Requirements for AirLand Battle will meet to receive briefings on C<sup>1</sup> requirements, funding, and advance technology. This meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552(c) of 5, U.S.C. specifically subparagraph (1) of, and Title 5, U.S.C., Appendix 1, section 10(d). The classified and nonclassified matters to be discussed are so

inextricably intertwined so as to preclude opening any portion of the meeting. The ASB Administrative Officer, Sally Warner, may be contacted for further information at (202) 695-3039 or 695-7046.

Sally A. Warner,

Administrative Officer, Army Science Board.

FR Doc. 88-10014 Filed 5-1-88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Floodplain Involvement Notification for Proposed Remedial Action at the Monticello Uranium Mill Tailings Site, Monticello, UT

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of floodplain involvement and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy proposes to conduct remedial action at the former Atomic Energy Commission uranium millsite in Monticello, Utah. Monticello lies in the southeast corner of Utah in the northern portion of San Juan County. The millsite will be cleaned up in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for Remedial Action at Inactive Uranium Processing Sites (40 CFR Part 192). The currently proposed remedial action alternative entails removing all contaminated material from within the floodplain and stabilizing approximately 2.4 million tons of tailings contaminated material at the site.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain/wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR Part 1002), DOE will prepare a floodplain assessment to be included in the Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared for the proposed remedial action. The EA will address disposal of the contaminated material at alternative sites and compare these alternatives to onsite stabilization or performing no remedial action.

Further information is available from the Department of Energy at the address shown below. Public comments or suggestions regarding the proposed activities in the floodplain area are invited.

Requests to receive copies of the Environmental Assessment when published may be sent to the address shown below.

DATE: Any comments are due on or before May 14, 1988.

ADDRESS: Send comments to: W.E. Murphie, U.S. Department of Energy, Division of Facility and Site,

Decommissioning Projects, NE-23, Washington, DC 20545.

Dated: April 22, 1988.

William R. Voigt, Jr.,

Director, Office of Remedial Action and Waste Technology, Office of Nuclear Energy.

[FR Doc. 88-9940 Filed 5-1-88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

### Coal Policy Committee of the National Coal Council; Open Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the following meeting:

Name: Coal Policy Committee of the National Coal Council.

Date and Time: Monday, June 2, 1988; 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

Place: The Westin Hotel, 2401 M Street NW., Washington, DC 20037.

Contact: Cecilia MacCarthy, U.S.

Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-23), Washington, DC 20545. Telephone: 301/353-2847.

Purpose of the Parent Council: To provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to coal and coal industry issues.

Purpose of the committee: To review requests for advice, information, etc., from the Secretary of Energy to the National Coal Council, and to recommend to the Council studies to be undertaken by the Council.

#### Tentative Agenda

—Call to Order by Gerald Blackmore,

Chairman

—Report on Work Group Reports of studies for the Secretary of Energy

—Discussion of any other business properly brought before the Committee

—Public Comment—10 Minute Rule

—Adjournment

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. The Chairman of the Committee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Any member of the public who wishes to file a written statement with the Committee will be permitted to do so, either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Cecilia MacCarthy at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received at least 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provisions will be made to include the presentation on the agenda.

Transcripts: Available for public review and copying at the Public Reading Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C., between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

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